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**START THE SCHOOL YEAR OUT RIGHT:
CHP+ IS LOW-COST HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN**

DENVER – September 2006 – Colorado children are back in school. With the start of the school year comes the purchase of needed supplies such as pencils, clothes and books, but often forgotten is health and dental insurance. Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) provides a solution for Colorado families who do not have health and dental insurance for their children.

CHP+ is low-cost health and dental insurance for uninsured Colorado children ages 18 and under whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private health insurance.

“An increasing number of families are taking advantage of the CHP+ program. We are proud to report that our recent education and enrollment campaign increased CHP+ enrollment from 48,811 in January to 54,100 in June – a 11 percent increase of 5,289 children and pregnant women,” said Steve Tool, executive director of the State of Colorado’s Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. “As the school year begins, we continue our campaign efforts, as there are many additional working families throughout Colorado who do not know that this low-cost health insurance program is available for their children. According to our most recent annual report, as of state fiscal year 2005, 93,435 Colorado children are eligible for the CHP+ program. This number includes the number of children already enrolled in CHP+.”

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CHP+ pays for health care services including well-child check ups and physicals, immunizations (shots), doctor visits, sick care, vision care, dental care, prenatal care, hospitalizations and medications. Families must meet certain income requirements to participate in CHP+.

Family size, income and some deductions determine if families qualify for the program and how much it will cost. Many working families are eligible and can participate in CHP+. For example, a family of four that makes just less than \$40,000 may qualify for the program. Some families will not have to pay an annual enrollment fee, others will pay \$25 to enroll one child and \$35 for two or more and co-payments range from \$0 to \$5 for care and \$15 for emergency room visits.

“In my 29 years as an educator, it is my experience that children who have health and dental care coverage do better in school,” said Beverly Harris, assistant principal at Sabin International, a Denver Public School. “CHP+ keeps Colorado children healthy, giving them every opportunity to succeed in school and in life.”

To find out if your family is eligible for CHP+, call toll free at 1-800-359-1991 or visit the CHP+ Web site at www.CHPplus.org. Families can now download the CHP+ application from the Web site and mail it in.